SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Game Guy"
(238-302)

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"Game Guy"
(238-302)
FIRST DRAFT SCRIPT

ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. GREAT UNKNOWN - DAY

This is the spot where the Great Swamp edges up to the great Unknown. A small BATTERED HOVERCRAFT (about the size of an automobile) limps toward the Swamp at low altitude, pursued by a SWAT-BOT HOVERCRAFT, firing their LASERS. The smaller craft disappears into the swamp and we hear a CRASH.

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - DAY

A middle-aged RAM with CURLED HORNS, ARI, springs from the wrecked smoking craft and runs for his life as...

The SWAT-BOT HOVERCRAFT blasts into view, lands in the shallow swamp.

HOVERCRAFT HATCH

HISSES open and two HOVERING SWAT-BOTS charge out. CAMERA PANS as they speed after Ari.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - OLD BATTLEGROUND SITE - DAY

Littered with the wreckage of Robotnik's war toys. SONIC taps his foot as he holds one end of a rope thrown over a tree limb. SALLY positions a hook attached to other end of the rope to a wrecked HOVER-UNIT.

SONIC
Any day now, Sal.

SALLY
Sorry to keep you waiting, your Hedgehogliness.
(pause)
Okay, go.

SONIC

jumps up, REVS the ol' sneakers. His legs spin in a BLUE BLUR.

SONIC
Hold onto your socks, Sal.

He BLASTS O.S., his rope jerking taut as...

THE HOVERCRAFT

GROANS and CREAKS as it rises off the ground, standing at a 60-degree angle.

SALLY
(yells)
Hold it there, Sonic.

SONIC

SKIDS to a stop, ties his end off to a tree.

SALLY

pokes around in the pile of parts beneath the upraised Hover-Craft. Sonic skids in.

SONIC
Any good stuff for the De-Robotisizer?

SALLY
Nothing yet.

Sonic uncovers a hunk of technology that's about the size of a backpack and shaped like a mini-monolith.

SONIC
What's this thing?

SALLY
Ohmygosh. Sonic...that's a magnetic field generator!

SONIC
Who-o-oha! Past cool!
(pause)
What is it?

SALLY
It's a powerful magnet.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEARBY HILLSIDE - DAY

TAILS, ANTOINE and Dulcy stand lookout. Tails and Dulcy scan the horizon with HI-TECH BINOCULARS. Antoine poses, pad and pencil in hand.

ANTOINE
Listen to this...
(recites)
Ma crepe Sally, you are...

TAILS
(interrupts)
C'mon, Ant. We're supposed to be lookouts.

DULCY
That's right.
(suddenly shouts)
Look out!

Her voice makes Antoine literally jump out of his boots, his fur standing on end as he lands on his butt.

ANTOINE
Ahhhhhh!

TAILS & DULCY
(giggle and laugh)

Antoine gets to his feet, grabs his boots. He "gestures" with them.

ANTOINE
(ticked off)
Oh, so you are thinking this is a funny little thing, eh?

TAILS & DULCY
Yeah!/Choo are very funny.

Antoine pulls his boots on.

ANTOINE
Well, I am failing to see the tumor. It is you who are training. I am going to read my incredible poem to the Princess.

Antoine storms O.S. Tails and Dulcy look after him and...

TAILS & DULCY
(GIGGLE)

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD BATTLEGROUND SITE - DAY

Sonic helps Sally stand the MFG into an upright position. Sally checks it over.

SALLY
It's still in good shape.

SONIC
Let's check it out.

He reaches for power switch but Sally grabs his hand.

SALLY
Sonic, no! It would attract every piece of metal within fifty feet.

ANTOINE (OS)
Hell-o, Ma Princess!

ANTOINE

approaches the rope ties off to the tree trunk.

ANTOINE (CONT)
I have written for you an explosion of my love!

He trips on a rock, grabs the rope to keep from falling on his face.

ANTOINE
(YELLS as he trips)

THE ROPE

knot loosens as...

ANTOINE

leans all his weight on the rope to stand up and...

THE ROPE

WHIPS upward, uncoiling around his feet as the upraised...

HOVERCRAFT

falls toward Sally and...

SONIC

ROARS INTO ACTION, whisking Sally to safety.

SALLY
Sonic! The magnet!

Sonic ZOOMS back, grabs the MFG and ROARS off, just as the wreck CRASHES down.

ANTOINE

is yanked straight up OUT OF SHOT by the rope that has coiled around his ankle.

ANTOINE
AHHHHHH!!

WIDER

As the uncoiling rope whips Antoine up in the air, around the tree branch, then sends him flying O.S.

ANTOINE
AHHHHHH!!!

SONIC AND SALLY

are looking up as Antoine continues his SCREAM from O.S. BEAT later, he THUDS flat on his back before them.

ANTOINE
(continued SCREAM, then big GRUNT when he lands)

SONIC
Nice landin', Ant.

ANTOINE
Merci. I try very hard.

As he tries to stand, he grabs the MFG and, of course, hits the power switch...

SALLY
(YELLS)
Antoine! No!

Antoine jumps back from the MFG.

ANTOINE
What?

Big HUMMING SOUND as the MFG comes to life.

SONIC
Duck!

ANTOINE
(looking around)
Where?

Sonic pulls Antoine to the ground as...

METAL OBJECTS of all kinds fly straight toward the MFG.

SONIC, SALLY & ANTOINE

lie flat on the ground as a ton of metal flies inches above their heads and SLAMS against the MFG with a flurry of CLANGS, creating a weird looking metal sculpture.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEARBY HILL - DAY

Tails and Dulcy peer through their binoculars. Suddenly Tails REACTS.

TAILS
Wow!

BINOCULAR POV

As Ari SPLASHES through the swamp, pursued by the hovering SWAT-BOTS.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND AREA - DAY

The MFG's powers have been dimmed by the huge amount of metal that now covers it. Sonic and Sally both glare at a contrite Antoine, who smiles weakly.

ANTOINE
I am supposing this to mean, ma Princess, that you don't want to be hearing my booty ful poem?

TAILS (OS)
Sonic! Sonic!

TAILS

flies INTO SHOT, CRASHES into Antoine, knocking him O.S.

TAILS
Ommph! Sorry, Ant.

SONIC
What's up, Big Guy?

TAILS
(impatient - excited)
Sonic! Swat-Bots! They're chasin' a guy this way!

Sonic starts to REV. Sally grabs his arm.

SALLY
Lead them back here.

Sonic looks at her in surprise.

SONIC
Say what?

SALLY
I've got an idea. Trust me.

SONIC
You got it, Sal.

Sonic blasts O.S., his backwash blowing all the metal off the MFG as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - DAY

Ari stands with his back to a huge tree, the Bots headed straight toward him. At the last second, he leaps up and pulls himself onto a tree branch as the Bots CLANG into the tree.

ARI
(laughs)
I'd love to stay, but I've places to go and people to see.

SONIC (OS)
Whoa! Way cool.

Ari looks OFF at...

SONIC

leaning casually against another tree trunk nearby.

SONIC (CONT)
Take off, Bro. I'll draw these Bots off.

ARI
Thanks, but why would they follow you?

SWAT-BOT (OS)
EMERGENCY ORDER OVERRIDE...

OTS SONIC AND ARI

The Swat-Bots turn their attention from Ari to Sonic.

SWAT-BOT (CONT)
HEDGEHOG PRIORITY ONE!

Sonic jabs a thumb at himself.

SONIC
That's me.

ARI
You're Sonic the Hedgehog?

SONIC
In the flesh.

ARI
I'm honored.

He salutes, then runs into the swamp as...

SONIC

REVS up, blasting the Bots with mud, then streaks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD BATTLEGROUND SITE - DAY

The MFG sits atop a stump, Sally and Tails crouched below. We hear SONIC'S TRADEMARK WHOOSH approach, then he zips THROUGH SHOT. Sally activates the MFG. BIG HUM as the Bots come flying in and immediately CLANG into the device.

SALLY

flips up a panel on one Bot's back, exposing circuitry. Tails watches intently as Sally points at a MODULAR UNIT in the center.

SALLY
That's the power converter. Pull it...
(she pulls it)
...and they're deactivated. You can do the other one, Tails.

TAILS

concentrates, opens the panel, his tongue sticking out one corner of his mouth like Jordan flying in from the free throw line. He pulls out the MODULAR UNIT and the Bot's electronics shut down.

TAILS
All right!

He high-fives Sally.

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - BASE CAMP - NIGHT

A PILE OF WRECKAGE that looks like a ten HOVER-UNIT collision, but it's the FF's camouflaged base camp. FAINT REFLECTION of campfire somewhere deep within the heap. PAN TO windows of a HOVER-UNIT perched atop the pile. Antoine and Dulcy "stand guard". They're playing cards.

DULCY
You gotta seven?

ANTOINE
Go fishing. Are you having a...four?

INSIDE HOVER UNIT

Antoine holds his cards toward him. Dulcy holds her cards so that they face Antoine, who quickly sees a four.

ANTOINE
Aha!
(he snatches the card)
Merci.

Dulcy frowns.

DULCY
You sure this is how to play?

ANTOINE
Of course, of course! Trust me.

DULCY
We're supposed to be on ground duty.

ANTOINE
Eh! Nothing ever is happening here. Do you have a nine?

PAN to look out window. On nearby hilltop, a SPY SPHERE rises into view.

CUT TO:

INT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

Equipment piled all around. Tails sits near the fire, watching Ari. He talks as he drinks a cup of soup. Sonic paces back and forth. Sally disassembles an electronic component while she listens.

ARI
...and when I found out where Robotnik was keeping my Freedom Fighters, I took off and that's when you showed up. Not that I couldn't handle those Bots myself.

SONIC
Freedom Fighters. Hear that, Sal? We're not the only ones.

SALLY

continues her work. She doesn't look up.

SALLY
Anyone can <u>say</u> they're a Freedom Fighter.

Sonic zips INTO SHOT next to Sally, leans in.

SONIC
(quietly)
Yo, Sal. You're bein' mondo rude.

SALLY
I'm being "mondo" cautious, Sonic.
We don't know anything about him.
(shakes her head)
Something just doesn't feel right.

SONIC
Like what?

SALLY
Like here we are in the middle of nowhere and this guy just happens to show up...

PAN TO SPY SPHERE hovering just above an opening in the roof.

SONIC (OS)
C'mon, Sal. The Bots were chasin' him!

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Robotnik and Snively watch Sally and Sonic on a "night-vision" monitor.

SALLY (THROUGH MONITOR)
Right, and Robotnik controls the Bots.

SNIVELY
The Princess doesn't seem to believe Ari, Sir.

ROBOTNIK
But the Rodent is buying it, Snively, and that's what counts.

CUT TO:

INT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

The argument continues in HUSHED TONES.

SONIC
Yeah, well I trust him.

SALLY
Well, I don't!

SONIC
Do.

SALLY
Don't.

ARI (OS)
Excuse me.

They look up as...

ARI

approaches from the shadows.

ARI
Sorry if I've caused you any trouble. It's hard to trust anyone these days. Thanks for your help. I can handle it from here.

He walks O.S. Sonic turns to Sally.

SONIC
Happy now?

SALLY
Sonic, you're being too reckless, as usual.

SONIC
Hey, what's reckless about trustin' somebody? You take the stuff back to Knothole, I'm gonna help him.

Sonic zips off into the night. Sally rolls her eyes and we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. SKY - DAY

CLOSE ON DULCY -- her wings a BLUR as she flies along. She looks pooped, her eyes only half-open. Sally, Tails and Antoine on her back. PULL OUT TO REVEAL Dulcy's in a makeshift harness carrying the deactivated Swat-Bots and magnetic field generator. Below her is the Great Forest.

DULCY - MOVING

is fighting sleep. Her eyes close and open, then slowly close as a beatific smile crosses her face, then...

DULCY
(SNORES)

SALLY AND ANTOINE

exchange puzzled glances.

SALLY
Dulcy?
(pause; louder)
Dulcy!

DULCY

pops her eyes open and turns around to look at Sally as she drops lower toward the trees.

DULCY
What?

Antoine points O.S., eyes wide.

ANTOINE
(screams)
Ahhhh!

Dulcy looks back around and SLAMS into a particularly tall tree that towers above the rest of the Forest. The impact knocks her back head over heals in a looping, spiraling collision course with the ground.

ANTOINE
(descending SCREAM)

CUT TO:

INT. ROTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

ROTOR adjusts his one-man band with a weird-looking wrench, then hits a switch. The band starts to play and Rotor doesn't hear the O.S. CRASH followed by a LONG SKID, then Dulcy comes sliding through the open doorway and stops right behind Rotor, Sally, Tails and a trembling Antoine still on her back. All have their eyes closed.

SALLY

is first to open hers. She blinks as she looks O.S.

SALLY'S POV

of Rotor conducting his one-man band with a baton. He is really into it.

SALLY (OS)
(YELLS)
Rotor!

Startled, Rotor loses his balance as he wheels around, and falls into his one-man band, where he is pummeled by drumsticks, trombones, fiddlesticks, etc.

CUT TO

INT. ROTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Dulcy lies on Rotor's FOUR-POSTER BED staring at the ceiling A wet cloth on her forehead. BUNNIE holds her hand.

ROTOR (OS)
All we have to do is connect this wire...

PAN TO...

ROTOR'S WORKBENCH

The Bots' disattached heads sit on the workbench. Sally and Tails crowd in as Rotor attaches wires leading from one of the Bot's POWER CONVERTERS and makes an adjustment. Th Bot-head comes to life.

SWAT-BOT
Awaiting instructions.

SALLY
What are your orders?

SWAT-BOT
Orders: pursue Freedom Fighter Ari. Do not capture. Drive to "The Fortress" Coordinates 3-6-2. Force Hedgehog into trap. Force Hedgehog into trap.

SALLY

reacts, horrified.

SALLY
We have to warn Sonic!

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. GREAT UNKNOWN - BADLANDS - THE FORTRESS - DAY

AN ANCIENT FORTRESS with broken facings and crumbling battlements, surrounded by dirt and rocks, squatting in the center of a large expanse of WEIRD, BLUE SAND. The sand is surrounded by badlands dotted with strangely-shaped rocks, bizarre bushes, etc. We hear SONIC'S TRADEMARK WHOOSH as he appears, Ari in tow, blasting toward the Fortress.

ARI
Sonic, hold it!

Sonic SKIDS to a stop at the edge of the sand. Ari takes a pair of HI-TECH GOGGLES from his backpack.

SONIC
What's up, Ari?

ARI
That sand. Put these on.

Ari hands Sonic the goggles, then picks up a sun-bleached ANIMAL SKULL. Sonic dons the goggles.

SONIC'S POV - THROUGH GOGGLES

We see swirling NEON COLOR patterns in the sand.

ARI (OS)(CONT)
Now watch.

The animal skull flies INTO SHOT, lands on a patch of GLOWING ORANGE SAND. WHIRLPOOL instantly appears and swallows the skull.

SONIC (OS)
Whoa! That's some serious sand.

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic pulls the goggles off and looks at them.

SONIC (CONT)
Way cool specs. Where'd ya get 'em?

ARI
I invented them.

SONIC

gives a "thumbs up" and grins.

SONIC
Way, way past! It's gonna be great havin' you around, Ari.

ARI
If Sally doesn't object.

SONIC
You know girls. She'll chill.
(he lowers goggles)
C'mon. Let's dust.

Sonic blasts off into the sand, zig-zagging toward the Fortress. Suddenly, they start to sink as the sand forms into a whirlpool.

SONIC

REVS until sand blasts out and he pulls up out of the whirlpool and looks back.

SONIC
Seriously serious sand.

He starts zig-zagging again as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT FOREST - DAY

At the edge of the Great Forest, just where it meets the Great Swamp. Dulcy soars up INTO SHOT, Sally clinging to her back.

SALLY

is anxious. She leans forward.

SALLY
I know this is asking a lot, but can you go faster, Dulcy? Who knows what kind of trouble Sonic is into.

DULCY

rolls her eyes.

DULCY
Hokay, Sal, but if I poop out before we get there, don't blame me! Afterburners!

A second, smaller set of wings extends from Dulcy's hindquarters. They flap slowly, then faster until they're a HUMMINGBIRD BLUR.

WIDER

Dulcy picks up speed as she drops down toward the Great Swamp.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS - DAY

With a final burst of speed, Sonic blasts out of the sand and SKIDS up near a large rock. He raises the goggles and checks out the Fortress.

SONIC
Man, looks pretty thrashed. Wonder what this place used to be?

ARI

reaches into his pack.

ARI
It's supposedly thousands of years old...

INSERT SHOT - INSIDE PACK

Ari's hand grasps a small BLACK BOX with a short antenna. He pushes a button. A RED LIGHT BLINKS ON.

THE FORTRESS

A large stone GRINDS open, then a PANEL SNAPS UP and a JET-POWERED ROBOT shoots forward, a high-tech "hedgehog-catcher" SNAPPING menacingly.

SONIC

reacts as the Robot streaks toward him.

SONIC
Chill, Ari. I'll be back.

Sonic REVS but doesn't move until the last second. Just as the Robot reaches him, he juices and PAN TO FOLLOW as he blasts through the rocks and behind the Fortress.

THE ROBOT

uses side-thrusters to change direction, then BLASTS behind the Fortress. A BEAT and Sonic appears on the opposite side, the Robot right on his butt.

CLOSER - FOLLOWING

The catcher SNAPS closed, pinching Sonic's butt.

SONIC (CONT)
Man! This guy's a real pain in the...
(brightens)
Better teach him some manners.

Sonic pours on the speed, his body snapping back into a "wheelie" and ROARS O.S., the Robot tearing after him.

SONIC

goes into SUPER-SONIC-SPIN, burrows down into ground, dirt and dust flies. He disappears as the Robot streaks INTO SHOT, uses FORWARD THRUST to BLAST to a halt.

ROBOT

BEEPS and WHIRS, then a HEAT RADAR SCREEN pops out of its head, rotates as it emits ELECTRONIC NOISES. Sonic, still spinning, suddenly erupts from the ground beneath the Robot, a spinning blur. FOLLOW as the Robot flies into the BLUE SAND. Instantly, a whirlpool forms and the Robot is sucked from sight.

SONIC

rubs his butt. Ari walks INTO SHOT.

ARI
Are you all right, Sonic?

SONIC
I'm cool. C'mon.

They move O.S. WHIP-PAN to sky above Badlands. In the distance, Dulcy approaches.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY ABOVE BADLANDS - DAY

Dulcy flying hard, her eyes unfocused, mouth hanging open. Sally points O.S.

SALLY
There's Sonic! Dulcy...

DULCY
(breathless)
I know...faster, faster.

SALLY
She turns on whatever speed she has left and banks INTO CAMERA.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS - DAY

Ari and Sonic arrive at the gated entrance. Sonic goes to open it.

ARI
Sonic, wait.

Ari tosses a rock at the gate. It hits an ELECTRIC FIELD (which is briefly visible when the pebble hits) and DISINTEGRATE.

SONIC
Whoa. That woulda smoked my sneakers.

ARI

pulls out the BLACK BOX and extends the antenna. There's a FLASH OF EFX and we hear a DESCENDING ELECTRICAL WHINE.

SONIC (CONT)
How come you know so much about this place, Ari?

Ari smiles confidently.

ARI
We have a good intelligence network.

SONIC
Man, so do we! We're gonna make a great team.

REVERSE ANGLE - FROM INSIDE FORTRESS

Sonic and Ari stare into the darkness. Sonic creeps TOWARD CAMERA.

SONIC (CONT)
Pretty creepy...

SALLY (OS)
(distant)
Sonic!!

He turns, looks skyward.

HIS POV

Dulcy and Sally heading toward us.

SONIC (OS)
Sal?

FROM OUTSIDE

Sonic starts toward the doorway. Behind him, Ari triggers the BLACK BOX. Instantly, a MASSIVE BLAST DOOR SLAMS closed in Sonic's face.

SONIC
Whoa! What's goin' on?

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS - DAY

OTS SALLY as Dulcy wags back and forth, descending toward a flat piece of ground along one side of the Fortress.

DULCY (OS)
Hold on, Sally!

In B.G., we see EFX play along the edges of the Fortress.

GROUND LEVEL - DULCY

wigs and wags, face apprehensive as she nears the ground, legs extended for landing. She touches down, trips, falls flat on her face and SKIDS along on her chin, headed right for...

A BIG ROCK

at the edge of the Blue Sand. WHAM! Dulcy hits the rock. Sally holds on for dear life. Dulcy's eyes cross.

SALLY
Dulcy? Are you all right?

DULCY
I'll pick up my room later, Ma.

BRIGHT FLASHES OF COLORED LIGHT reflect on their faces. Sally turns to the Fortress.

OTS SALLY - THE FORTRESS

FLASHING COLORS envelope the Fortress, "dissolving" the facade in an EXPLOSION OF LIGHT and revealing a sinister "Robotnik-themed" dark metal building with dark portholes. ELECTRICAL FLASHES play along the edges of the building.

REVERSE

Sally stares, alarmed. Dulcy's still dazed.

SALLY
Ohmygosh. This is trouble, Dulcy.

DULCY
I won't be no trouble, Ma.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK BUILDING - DAY

CLOSE ON SONIC, his reflection in the wall beside him. PULL OUT as Sonic and Ari ENTER a small, metal-walled chamber. High on one wall is a SCRAMBLED PICTURE. Sonic looks up at it.

SONIC
Yo, what's up with the TV?

ARI
We have to unscramble it to get in.

SONIC
Say what?

ARI
Unscramble it.

He moves the squares around as...

SONIC

DRUMS his fingers, TAPS his foot, checks his watch as we hear a CLICK and...

ARI (OS)
That's it.

Sonic looks up, "TAKES," then makes a disgusted face.

SONIC'S POV

On the wall screen is a picture of Robotnik.

SONIC (OS)
Yechh!

THE WALL

retracts into the ceiling, revealing another metal room where a sorry-looking GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS are chained to the wall.

SONIC
Man, o' man! Are those you Freedom Fighters, Ari?

ARI
I'm afraid so.

SONIC
Let's spring em!

Sonic BLASTS into the room.

INT. METAL ROOM

As Sonic SKIDS to a stop, the prisoners VAPORIZE into thin air.

SONIC
Hey!
(he turns)
Ari? What's goin' on?

SONIC'S POV

Ari stands outside the room holding the BLACK BOX. He looks sad.

ARI
Sorry, Sonic.

He hits a button and the door SLAMS down. Sonic ZIPS up to doorway, but there's no way he can open it. He POUNDS on it.

SONIC
(YELLS)
That's real funny, Ari. Now open up.

ROBOTNIK (OS)
I'm afraid you're stuck with me, Hedgehog.

SONIC

whips around as a panel slides back, revealing a GIANT TV SCREEN. ROBOTNIK'S image FADES IN.

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
But don't worry, I promise you won't be bored.
(WHISPERY LAUGH)

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. DARK BUILDING - DAY

Dulcy stands about twenty feet from the IRISED BLAST DOOR. She has the MFG tied to her chest. A short distance away, Sally consults Nicole.

DULCY
I am so proud of my idea.
First....

Dulcy flaps her wings, rises off the ground.

DULCY (CONT)
I fly...then, when I push this
button, I will fly backward and rip
the door out!

SALLY

glances up, sees Dulcy. She reacts, EYES WIDE.

SALLY
Dulcy! Wait!

DULCY

"tosses" her head.

DULCY
You can not stop me! My idea will
work!

She pushes the button. She is whipped to the building at the speed of light, where she sticks like glue, her face mooshed against the wall..

DULCY (CONT)
(lips contorted)
It doesn't work! Turn it off!
Turn it off!

Sally ENTERS SHOT, turns the MFG off. Dulcy slides to the ground.

NICOLE
Analysis complete, Sally.

SALLY
Give me the bad news first.

NICOLE

Creates HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION of the building. RED X'S appear at three potential openings.

NICOLE (CONT)
No access possible without sophisticated weaponry.

DULCY

continues to kick at the door. Sally shakes her head.

SALLY
Never mind, Dulcy.

DULCY
WAnt me to do my fiery brath thing?

SALLY
Save it. We'll just have to...

Suddenly, the BUILDING RUMBLES and the door starts to IRIS open.

SALLY (CONT)
Dulcy...get back!

DULCY
No problem!

WIDER

They flatten against the wall to one side of opening door. When it stops, the doorway is much wider than before. Sally peers around the corner.

SALLY'S POV

of a LARGE HANGAR. HOVER-CRAFT inside, facing open doorway. The pilot hatch in open position. A smaller door near the Hover-Craft slides open and Ari runs in, climbs into the Hover-Craft. ENGINE ROARS TO LIFE. The SCENE SHAKES SLIGHTLY under their power.

DULCY & SALLY

Sally's eyes narrow.

The Hover-Craft launches THROUGH SHOT and O.S., blowing their hair back.

SALLY
Now!

They jump for the door, but Dulcy trips and falls on Sally.

DULCY
Whoops.

SALLY
(GRUNTS as Dulcy falls on her)

They watch helplessly as the DOOR SLAMS SHUT in their face.

DULCY
Sorry, Sally.

SALLY

jumps up, helps Dulcy to her feet.

SALLY
Forget it. Can you catch that Hover-Craft?

DULCY
What Hover-Craft:

SALLY
(points)
That one.

Dulcy follows her point.

DULCY
That one? Sure. Hop on.

Sally hops on as Dulcy REVS her small wings, then spreads her LARGE WINGS, runs a few steps, stumbles but doesn't fall, then leaps into the air as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY OVER BADLANDS - DAY

The Hover-Craft speeds INTO CAMERA and PAST. Behind it, comes Dulcy, flying with all her might.

SALLY
That's it, Dulcy. We have to catch him before he goes into overdrive.

DULCY
(breathless)
I'm gonna have to crack the whip, then.

SALLY
Crack the whip?

DULCY

raises her tail back over her head where it coils like a whip.

DULCY
Hold on tight, Sally.

She SNAPS the tail straight out behind her like a whip and the force of it shoots Dulcy forward at incredible speed, so fast, in fact, that...

DULCY

SLAMS head-first into the rear of the Hover-Craft.

SALLY
(shouts)
Dulcy! Grab on! Grab on!

Dulcy grabs a bar on the Hover-Craft.

DULCY
I got it, Ma.

We hear ELECTRONIC WHINE change to OVERDRIVE and...

THE HOVER-CRAFT

accelerates toward the distant Robotropolis, Dulcy hanging on for dear life and we...

CUT TO:

INT. DARK BUILDING - SMALL ROOM - DAY

Sonic glares up at Robotnik's IMAGE on the MONITOR.

ROBOTNIK
Are you ready to play a little game with me, Rodent?

WIDER

A section of wall opens up and BLINDING LIGHT pours in. Sonic squints into the glare.

SONIC
Do I have a choice, Robuttnik?

ROBOTNIK
But of course not.
(pause)
Come along. I wouldn't want to start without you.

SONIC
Yeah, right.

Sonic REVS up and streaks through the opening.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK BUILDING - GIANT ROOM - DAY

Sonic BLASTS into this featureless room and SKIDS to a stop as the opening CLANGS shut behind him.

SONIC
Who-oooa...

DRAMATIC HIGH ANGLE

with Sonic very tiny in the center of the room, which is HUGE (the size of a FOOTBALL STADIUM).

SONIC (CONT)
..this place is bi-i-ig!

PULL OUT TO REVEAL we're watching Sonic on a monitor inside ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM. Snively looks at monitor, then at Robotnik, who's standing in front of a LARGE COMPUTER MONITOR. On the screen, GRAPHICS FLASH, "LOADING RECONFIG".

SNIVELY
(hesitantly)
Sir, we have the Hedgehog in the palm of our hand. Why not just..."take care of him" now?

ROBOTNIK

watches the MONITOR SCREEN as the GRAPHICS CHANGE to "CONFIG SYSTEMS READY - LOADING PLAYER - VOICE COMMAND READY"

ROBOTNIK
I've been waiting for this moment too long, Snively...

CU ROBOTNIK

He grins wickedly.

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
(wickedly)
...I want to savor every moment.
(commands)
Activate!

ON MONITOR

Sonic is bathed in an EERIE GLOW. He levitates above the floor.

INT. GIANT ROOM - DAY

MATCH CUT of Sonic.

SONIC (CONT)
Hey! What's up?

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Why, you're up, Hedgehog.

SONIC
Hey!

A PANEL

SNAPS open and a MECHANICAL ARM SHOOTS OUT, clutching a GIANT, CAGE-LIKE STEEL BALL (like American Gladiators) with an OPEN DOOR. A SECOND ARM EXTENDS, knocks Sonic into the ball. SLAMS door shut.

SONIC (CONT)
Hey! Watch it, mitt-head!

THE BALL

drops to the floor with a THUNK as a...

GIANT MONITOR

on the wall LIGHTS UP with Robotnik's smiling image.

ROBOTNIK
Activate!

VARIOUS ANGLES

As the room quickly TRANSFORMS: floor panels SNAP back and giant flippers rise and CLICK into place; other panels slide back revealing large shallow holes that look like MONSTER mouths. BUMPERS rise from floor, and "card bumpers" push out from wall around the perimeter of the game as the transformation completes and we see Sonic is in the middle of a giant pinball machine. Half the bumpers sport Sonic's portrait, the other half Robotnik's.

SONIC

peers out at his picture on one of the bumpers, shakes his head.

SONIC
I'm cool lookin', I'll give myself that!

Suddenly, there's a HOLLOW, HOWLING SOUND. Sonic turns, sees...

SONIC'S POV - AT "TOP" OF GAME

PANELS slide back to reveal a SHRIEKING, WHIRLING NEXUS. Above it, Robotnik leers down from the monitor screen.

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Lovely, isn't it, Hedgehog? It's a dimensional warp I created years ago.

WIDE ON MONITOR - TO INCLUDE SONIC BELOW

Robotnik looks down at Sonic.

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
There's still a few techno problems to work out. It seems that those who enter...never return.
(big SIGH)
Oh, well...life isn't perfect.

SONIC

glares at Robotnik.

SONIC
Perfect is never havin' to see you again, swamp-head.

ON GAME - PANNING

Past the bumpers and outside bumpers.

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Why, thank you. Here are the rules. Hit <u>your</u> bumpers, and the PORTAL closes a little. Hit <u>my</u> bumper and...

HOLD ON "ROBOTNIK" BUMPER - MATCH CUT TO MONITOR

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
...Well, even you can figure that out.
(pause)
I'd wish you luck, but it's against my moral code.

WIDE

Sonic's ball is bathed in a SHIMMERING GLOW which levitates it to the starting plunger.

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
Let the fun begin!

SONIC

watches the HUGE PLUNGER pull farther and farther away from him. He braces himself.

SONIC
Somethin' tells me I shoulda listened to...

The PLUNGER hits the ball, knocking it O.S. in a flash.

SONIC (OS) (CONT)
(diminishing in distance)
Saaaaallllll!

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY NEAR ROBOTROPOLIS - DAY

Ari's Hover-Craft descends toward Robotropolis. Dulcy and Sally still cling to the rear.

DULCY
(still dazed)
Are we there yet, Ma?

CUT TO:

INT. PINBALL GAME - DAY

START ON SHRIEKING PORTAL. It is wide open. We hear a PINBALL BELL. The portal closes a notch.

SONIC

REVS UP and sends the ball streaking to a "Sonic" bumper. DING! CAMERA PANS as he REVS to one "Sonic" bumper after another in a blue streak as...

SONIC

gets between two ROUND BUMPERS and oscillates back and forth, creating one helluva lot of BELL RINGING. He stops the ball and looks O.S.

THE PORTAL

slowly closes, then finally disappears.

SONIC (OS)
All-right!

SONIC

SKIDS the ball to a stop, looks up at Robotnik.

SONIC
Looks like you lose, chrome-dome.

ON MONITOR

Robotnik grins.

ROBOTNIK
Don't be silly, dear Hedgehog.
That was just the warm-up. I
didn't want you to...

SONIC

watches as a FLIPPER rises from the hole directly before him and WHACKS the ball. CAMERA FOLLOWS as he streaks across the game board to a HOLE and drops into...

THE HOLE

which looks like a GROTESQUE MONSTER MOUTH.

ROBOTNIK (CONT)(OS)
....strain any muscles.

A BLAST OF ICY SMOKE covers Sonic and the ball. When it clears, he is COMPLETELY FROZEN within the ball.

SONIC
(weakly)
Mondo problemo.

Sonic's frozen ball is ejected UP O.S.

WIDE ON GAME

The ball careens back and forth across the game board, repeatedly hitting "Robotnik" bumpers as the frozen Sonic has no control.

THE PORTAL

RATCHETS open to a GAPING HOLE.

A HUGE HOLOGRAPHIC ROBOTNIK

carrying a HOCKEY STICK appears next to Sonic's ball.

ROBOTNIK
One small step for me and...

He raises the stick and...

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
One giant step for Hedgehog-kind!

WHACK! He blast the ball with his stick and sends it streaking toward the...

OPEN PORTAL

where the SHRIEKING VOID is beckoning.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTROPOLIS - ROBOTNIK'S HQ - DAY

As Ari's Hover-Craft descends into a fourth-story hangar, Dulcy drops off, spreads her wings and soars UP toward...

TOP OF THE BUILDING

Dulcy flies UP INTO SHOT and hovers above the road for a moment.

SALLY
(worried)
Dulcy...?

DULCY
I'm tryin' a new landing technique.

She folds her wings, stiffens her tail, then plummets straight down and O.S. Hear a LOUD THUMP and...

DULCY

vibrates like a tuning fork, her tail stuck in the roof like a knife, Sally clinging to her neck.

DUCLY
Whaddaya think, Sally?

SALLY
It has possibilities.

CUT TO:

INT. PINBALL GAME - DAY

Sonic's ball streaks across the game board and SLAMS into the left edge of the portal, EXPLODING the ice.

SONIC

shakes the ice free, blows on his hand. He REVS and starts spinning the ball again.

SONIC
You're history, Robotnik!

WIDER

Sonic blasts back and forth across the game, hitting the "Sonic" bumpers.

THE PORTAL

starts to close.

ROBOTNIK'S IMAGE

sneers down from the monitor.

ROBOTNIK
I admire your spirit, Rodent, but the game is far from over...

ROBOTNIK/SONIC SIDE BUMPERS

Drop into floor, DOOR opens and three HOVERING SWAT-BOTS streak through, firing LASER BLASTS..

SONIC

REVS it, dodging blasts. VARIOUS ANGLES as the Swat-Bots try to corner Sonic. Sonic blasts behind a round bumper, stops.

OTS SONIC

as he looks at LARGE FLIPPER a short distance away.

SONIC
Time for a little "botting" practice.

He revs up, gets the ball spinning, just as the Swat-Bots ENTER SHOT.

SONIC

maneuvers in and out around the Bots, leads them around a few bumpers - then rolls his ball behind the FLIPPER and starts the ball spinning in place.

HIS POV

The portal in B.G., the Bots heading straight toward us, the flipper in front of us, ball a spinning blur.

SONIC

accelerates, hits the BACK of the flipper, launching it forward and knocking the Bots backward through..

THE PORTAL

and INTO THE VOID. Big NOVA EFX as they disappear in the swirling gray.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - DAY

Robotnik stands near door as Ari enters.

ARI
All right, Robotnik. I delivered Sonic. Now release my Freedom Fighters.

PAN TO AIR VENT IN CEILING

where Sally and Dulcy are watching.

SALLY
(whispers)
Get you an ice blast ready, Dulcy.

DULCY
You got it.

DULCY

takes a big gulp of air, SWALLOWS it (like a reverse burp). Her stomach inflates a little.

DULCY
(swallows air)

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Of course. I always keep my promises. Snively?

SNIVELY

snaps to attention.

SNIVELY
Sir?

ROBOTNIK
Bring in Ari's friends.

Snively pushes a wall button and door slides open. Swat-Bots ENTER, escorting 5 ROBOTISIZED ANIMALS into the room. (Two WOLVES, a RABBIT and two RAMS).

ARI

reacts, turning to Robotnik.

ARI
Why, you...

The Swat-Bots ZOOM and grab Ari's arms.

INSIDE VENT

Sally watches through vent. Dulcy's belly much larger now.

DULCY
(swallows air)

SALLY
C'mon, Dulcy!

DULCY
Hey, girlfriend, ice ain't easy!
(swallows air)

INT. WAR ROOM

Swat-Bots carry Ari toward the door.

ARI
One day, Robotnik, one day you'll be on the other end of this.

ROBOTNIK
Oh, put away all the drama, Ari. You'll feel better after you're robotisized.

ARI
We'll get you, Robotnik!

IN AIR VENT

Dulcy's belly is inflated like a balloon. She looks sick.

DULCY
(weakly-pained)
Ready.

Sally moves back from the vent as Dulcy maneuvers her fat self into the opening. The vent SAGS and CREAKS.

SALLY
Careful...

The VENT GIVES WAY and Dulcy plummets O.S.

DULCY
(YELLS as she falls)

INT. WAR ROOM

Dulcy crash lands right in front of Robotnik and Snively. The stare at each other in surprise. Dulcy smiles.

DULCY
(brightly)
Hello.

ROBOTNIK
Who are you?

DULCY
I'm Dulcy, who do you think?

ROBOTNIK
Get her!

DULCY
Forget you, chump.

Dulcy unleashes a HUGE BELCHING sound and her stomach collapses as she hits Robotnik and Snively with a BLAST OF FRIGID AIR. They freeze in place.

DULCY
(big BELCH)

SALLY

hangs from the ceiling vent, releases, tucks, spins and lands gracefully on her feet next to Dulcy, who looks a little ill.

SALLY
Good work, Dulcy.

SWAT-BOTS

release Ari and speed toward Sally and Dulcy. But Ari lowers his head and charges, BUTTING the Bots past Sally and Dulcy and O.S. with a CRASH.

SALLY
(to Ari)
Thanks.

ARI
No thanks needed. I'd like to explain...

SALLY
(interrupts)
Another time. Let's get out of here.

CUT TO:

INT. PINBALL GAME - DAY

Sonic SLAMS his ball against a "Sonic" bumper, backs up, SLAMS it again. He looks O.S. at...

THE PORTAL

It's history.

SONIC (OS)
I'm outta here.

SONIC

grabs the bars of the ball, shakes them.

SONIC (CONT)
(strains)
Unnnnh!

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Don't strain yourself, Blue Boy.

Sonic looks up.

ROBOTNIK

on the monitor. He's still partially frozen and pissed!

ROBOTNIK (CONT)
The game isn't over until the Hedgehog sings.

ON GAME

HUGE MACHINERY sounds as the game REFORMS. VARIOUS ANGLES as the "SONIC" bumpers drop into the floor, replaced by "ROBOTNIK" bumpers. The FLIPPERS sink into the floor. Sections of the floor re-form and HUGE FLIPPERS that span the width of the game floor rise up and LOCK into place.

SONIC

starts to REV when the GIANT FLIPPER sweeps THROUGH SHOT, catapulting him into a bumper and...

THE PORTAL

opens.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK BUILDING - NIGHT

A SHRIEK-BOT (like the one from "Sonic Conversion") screams into sight and does a "Harrier-type" landing near the front entrance. Cockpit opens. Crammed inside are Dulcy, Ari and Sally.

DULCY
(straining sound)
Unnnnhhh!

Dulcy manages to pull herself out from between Ari and Sally. Ari hops out.

ARI
Where is it?

SALLY
(points)
That rock.

THE ROCK

Ari's hands pull rock aside revealing the MFG. He grabs it and we PULL OUT as he runs toward...

THE BLAST-DOOR

Ari runs in, points CONTROLLER at the door as Sally and Dulcy run INTO SHOT.

ARI
Stand back. I have to test the defensive system.

Dulcy and Sally step back. He activates the controller. The door IRISES OPEN, he jumps through and it instantly IRISES CLOSED.

SALLY
Hey! Ari!

Sally and Dulcy POUND on the door.

CUT TO:

INT. PINBALL GAME - DAY

FOLLOWING SONIC, rolling, hitting, bouncing and being tossed around inside the ball. He doesn't look so good.

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Having fun yet, Dear Boy?

THE PORTAL

is almost completely open. Sonic rolls THROUGH SHOT, we hear him strike a bumper. Portal opens all the way. PAN TO SONIC, stopped in the middle of the floor. A GIANT FLIPPER pulls back, about to knock him through the portal.

SONIC

woozy, reaches into his backpack for the Power Ring when the GIANT FLIPPER STREAKS INTO SHOT, striking the ball. Power Ring falls out and lands on the game floor as Sonic is knocked O.S.

FOLLOWING SONIC

as he streaks helplessly toward the OPEN PORTAL.

SONIC (CONT)
Noooooo!

Then, the ball suddenly stops, reverses.

SONIC (CONT)
Hey? What's up?

ROBOTNIK

on the monitor, REACTS.

ROBOTNIK
What?

ARI

stands at the edge of the game board, out of reach of the flippers. Next to him, roped to the wall is the MFG. Sonic's ball rolls INTO SHOT, CLANGS against the MFG.

ARI
I thought you could use a hand, Sonic, but we're on our own from here.

Sonic turns, watches something O.S.

SONIC
No prob. Help's on the way.

The POWER RING flies INTO SHOT. Sonic catches it. BIG EFFECTS as it kicks in.

SONIC (CONT)
Get ready to turn that sucker off!

Sonic REVS, BLASTING SPARKS in all directions as the ball spins like a PINWHEEL.

SONIC (CONT)
(yells)
Now, ARi!

ARI

flips a switch and the ball STREAKS OUT OF SHOT.

VARIOUS ANGLES

As the SUPERCHARGED BALL blasts back and forth across the game, slicing through the GIANT FLIPPES, shattering the BUMPERS and destroying the game in a FIREWORKS OF SFX.

ROBOTNIK

on monitor, grins wickedly.

ROBOTNIK
Ah! Finally, the Power Ring. Playtime's over.

SONIC

crashes into the wall and the ball SPRINGS OPEN. He jumps out. PAN TO FOLLOW as he zips across littered, trashed game toward Ari. A HUGE ROAR as WIND blasts Sonic O.S. toward the NOW LARGER PORTAL.

ON OPPOSITE WALL

A huge hole has opened and HOWLING WIND blasts debris in its path. Sonic revs it, fighting against the wind. He gains ground, then reacts as Ari is BLOWN THROUGH SHOT in the opposite direction.

SONIC
(YELLS)
ARI!

He ROARS O.S. after him.

ON PORTAL

Ari is blown INTO SHOT, tumbling. Sonic races in after him and grabs him by one wrist just before he falls into the VORTEX. Sonic grabs the portal edge with his free hand. HUGE PIECES OF THE GAME fly past them, whirling into the VORTEX and disappearing in HUGE EFX FLASHES that reflect off Sonic and Ari's faces.

SONIC
(yelling over wind roar)
Hang on, Ari!

ARI
(yelling over wind roar)
I'm sorry! He had my Freedom Fighters...

SONIC
(yelling over wind roar)
Save your strength!

ARI
No! Gotta tell you! Other Freedom Fighters! They're looking for Sally! The list...her father's list...

Part of a FLIPPER flies INTO SHOT and hits Ari, knocking him loose. He flies backward into the VORTEX.

SONIC
Ari-i-i-i!!!

Ari disappears in a FLASH OF EFX.

SONIC

drags himself along the wall, then JUICES, side-stepping flying debris like a football player.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK BUILDING - DAY

Sally and Dulcy hide behind rocks, holding their ears against the HUGE HOWLING SOUND. The building now has a huge HOLE in the side. Bushes and other debris are flying into the hole. Suddenly, Sonic blasts out of the hole, turns streaks toward them.

SALLY
(shouting over noise)
Sonic!

She and Dulcy hug Sonic. Suddenly, there's a huge CRACKING, CRASHING, BREAKING SOUND. They all turn.

THEIR POV

Sparks, lightning and big EFX dance along the surface of the building. Suddenly, the building tears apart and collapses in on itself until only a large GRAY VOID swirls in its place.

HIGH ANGLE

As Sonic, Dulcy and Sally stare at the swirling vortex.

DULCY
Is Ari...?

SONIC
He's inside that thing.

SALLY
It's a vortex. Maybe someday, we'll figure it out and bring him back.

SONIC
Yeah. I hope so.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - ROTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Sally works at a bench, cataloguing salvaged equipment. Sonic sits beside her, his feet up on the bench.

SALLY
(excited)
Other Freedom Fighters. And you're sure he said "the list"?

SONIC
Absolutely.

SALLY
What could that list be? Maybe it's a list of other Freedom Fighter groups!

SONIC
Whoa! You're the one who didn't trust Ari in the first place.

Sally walks INTO SHOT, carrying heavy ELECTRONIC COMPONENT with large RED BUTTON. She PLOPS it down next to Sonic.

SALLY
But, unlike some Hedgehogs, I have the ability to learn.

SONIC
(indignant)
Hey, I can learn!

SALLY
I think not.

Sally walks OUT OF SHOT. Sonic watches her go.

SONIC
(mimicks)
I think not.

Sonic idly looks at the ELECTRONIC COMPONENT with the red button.

SONIC (CONT)
What's this thing?

He pushes the BUTTON. INSTANTLY, his SPIKES FRIZ OUT.

SONIC
(startled)
Yahhhh!

Sally re-enters SHOT, grinning.

SALLY
I rest my case.
(GIGGLES)

Sonic whips out hand mirror, checks himself out.

SONIC
AHHHHH!

SONIC
I'm gonna teach you somethin', Sal!

SALLY
(GIGGLE and SCREAM)

Sonic REVS up and BLASTS O.S., as we...

IRIS OUT.

THE END